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RMS Patent Department

NO. 852 P. 4

Atty Docket No. 21933-US
Serial No. 10/657,308
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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

See attached Replacement Sheet:

Replacement Sheet #1: Figures 1 and 2

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REMARKS

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Status of the claims

Claims 1-5 and 7 are canceled. Claim 6 is currently amended.

Claim 6 is pending and under consideration with entry of the Amendments.

Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification as filed, for example on page 7 in Claims 1 and 5 as originally filed.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because they must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the "pin" of claims 5 and 6 must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. (Action page 2.)

Applicants attach herewith replacement Figure 1 which includes the addition of references numbers 9 "pin" and 10 "handle". Additionally, Applicants have amended the specification in connection with the amendments to Figure 1 to incorporate the descriptions of 9 "pin" and 10 "handle". Both the pin and the handle are found in the specification as originally filed, for example on page 5 lines 34-35 as well as in Claims 5 and 6 as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced. Thus, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection.

Specification

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of the informality on page 4 of the specification, specifically lines 3 and 4 which lack information. (Action page 3)

Applicants have amended page 4 of the Specification to include descriptions of reference number 9 as "Pin of closure device" and reference number 10 as "Handle of closure device". Both the pin and the handle are found throughout the specification as filed, for example on page 5 lines 34-35. No new matter has been introduced. Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 4, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,720,406 (Fassbind et al). (Action page 3)

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-5 and 7. Therefore, the rejection is moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

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Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over EP836884 in view of US 5,683,659 (Hovatter). Additionally, the Examiner has rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,720,406 in view of US 6,776,964. (Action page 4)

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-5 and 7. Therefore, the rejection is moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to claim 6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (Action page 5)

Accordingly, Applicants have rewritten claim 6 in independent form and have amended the claim to include all of the limitations of the base claim 1 and intervening claim 5. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully assert that the present application is in condition for allowance and request that the Office issue a timely Notice of Allowance.

Under 37 CFR §1.136(a), Applicants respectfully request a 3-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action mailed February 1, 2006. The 3-month response date was May 1, 2006; with the granting of this request, the response time is re-set to August 1, 2006. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the amount of \$1020, the fee due under 37 CFR §1.17(a)(3), to Deposit Account No. 50-0812. Please grant any other extensions of time required to enter this amendment and charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0812.

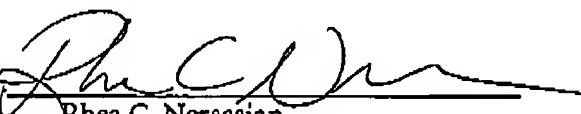
Please direct all future correspondence to: Customer No. 22829.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

7/26/06

By:


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